



*Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, June 23, 2006

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COUPLE INDICTED ON INTERNATIONAL PARENTAL KIDNAPPING CHARGE

PHOENIX - A federal grand jury here returned a one-count indictment on Tuesday, June 20th against Edward Henry Leader, 37, of Las Vegas, and Jessica Karin Heird, 20, of Meadview, Ariz. for allegedly retaining their one-year-old child outside of the U.S. with intent to obstruct the lawful exercise of parental rights. Both defendants had their identity hearings yesterday in federal court in the Southern District of California and will be brought to Phoenix for trial.

A conviction for International Parental Kidnapping carries a maximum penalty of three years in prison, a \$250,000 fine or both. In determining an actual sentence, the assigned judge will consult the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges. The judge, however, is not bound by those guidelines in determining a sentence.

An indictment is simply the method by which a person is charged with criminal activity and raises no inference of guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until competent evidence is presented to a jury that establishes guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the U.S. Marshal's Service in the Southern District of California and the District of Arizona, the FBI in the Southern District of California and the District of Arizona, the Mohave County Sheriff's Office, the San Diego County District Attorney's Office and the Clark County, Nevada, Family Services Department. The prosecution is being handled by Bill C. Solomon, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix.

CASE NUMBER: CR-06-0584-PCT-PGR
RELEASE NUMBER: 2006-108(Heird, et.al)

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